

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for the production of filler-containing paper, comprising:

depositing a pulp slurry ~~containing~~ consisting essentially of pulp fibre, a cationic polymer containing vinylamine units and a particulate filler (B) of titanium dioxide and/or calcium carbonate on a substrate; and

dewatering the applied pulp thereby fixing the cationic polymer and filler particles ~~in~~ to the fibers of the pulp such that the paper product prepared has an ash content of 3-40 wt %,

wherein the cationic polymer component is defined in terms of a component (A) which comprises at least 0.0005 %, but no more than 0.04 %, by conversion to solids concentration in terms of the dry mass of raw material pulp, of a polymer obtained by 20 to 100 % hydrolysis of the total formyl groups in a polymer having at least N-vinylformamide units as a polymerization component;

wherein component (A) and component (B) are added to the pulp slurry such that the mass ratio of component (A) to component (B) ranges from 0.001/100 to 0.5/100 by conversion to solids concentration; and

whereby the cationic polymer fixes the titanium dioxide and/or calcium carbonate filler particles to the fibers of the pulp and thereby enhances the ash content and opacity of the filler-containing paper produced relative to the ash content and opacity of the filler-containing paper produced without including the cationic polymer in the pulp slurry.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method for the production of filler-containing paper according to Claim 4, wherein in the preparation of component (A), N-vinylformamide is copolymerized with a monomer selected from the group consisting of the vinyl or propenyl esters of saturated carboxylic acids, nonionic (meth)allyl monomers, (meth)allyl monomers having a side chain which contains a cationic nitrogen atom, olefins, ethylenically-unsaturated carboxylic acids, esters or amides of these ethylenically-unsaturated carboxylic acids, monomers with a nitrile group, monomers with a sulphonic acid group, monomers with a phosphoric acid group and styrene-type monomers.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method for the production of filler-containing paper according to Claim 4, wherein said pulp is a kraft pulp, a sulphite pulp, other such bleached and unbleached chemical pulps, groundwood pulp, mechanical pulp, thermomechanical pulp, chemithermomechanical pulp, other such bleached or unbleached high-yield pulps, waste pulps, wood pulp, straw pulp, kenaf pulp and mixtures of one of said aforesaid pulps and a synthetic polyamide, polyester, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol fibre.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A base paper of the filler-containing paper produced according to the method of Claim 4 in the form of a construction material, India paper or tip base paper for cigarettes.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method for the production of filler-containing paper, comprising:

depositing a pulp slurry ~~containing~~ consisting essentially of pulp fibre, a cationic polymer containing vinylamine units and a particulate filler (B) of titanium dioxide and/or calcium carbonate on a substrate; and

dewatering the applied pulp thereby fixing the cationic polymer and filler particles ~~in~~ to the fibers of the pulp such that the paper product prepared has an ash content of 3-40 wt %,

wherein the cationic polymer component is defined in terms of a component (A) which comprises at least 0.001 %, but no more than 0.04 %, by conversion to solids concentration in terms of the dry mass of raw material pulp, of a polymer obtained by 20 to 100 % hydrolysis of the total formyl groups in a polymer having at least N-vinylformamide units as a polymerization component;

wherein component (A) and component (B) are added to the pulp slurry such that the mass ratio of component (A) to component (B) ranges from 0.01/100 to 0.3/100 by conversion to solids concentration; and

whereby the cationic polymer fixes the titanium dioxide and/or calcium carbonate filler particles to the fibers of the pulp and thereby enhances the ash content and opacity of the filler-containing paper produced relative to the ash content and opacity of the filler-containing paper produced without including the cationic polymer in the pulp slurry.

Claim 10 (New): The method for the production of filler-containing paper according to Claim 4, wherein particulate filler (B) is titanium dioxide.

Claim 11 (New): The method for the production of filler-containing paper according to Claim 9, wherein particulate filler (B) is titanium dioxide.